

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 01024 190941Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 IGA-02
NEA-10 /099 W
-----190948Z 005141 /10

R 181617Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2039
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USUN NEW YORK 387

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1024

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, US, TO, FR
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER KODJO ON U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE

REF: STATE 082515

1. PURSUANT TO REFTTEL, I MADE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE
FOREIGN MINISTER KODJO TO BRIEF HIM ON U.S. MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. KODJO'S COMMENT ON CONTINUED U.S.
ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE WAS THAT TOGO WELCOMED THIS EVIDENCE
OF U.S. SUPPORT OF A BELEAGUERED REGIME FACING
EXTERNAL AGGRESSION. HE SAID PRESIDENT EYADEMA WAS
PARTICULARLY CONCERNED TO SEE INDICATIONS THAT U.S. HAD
THE WILL TO ATTEMPT TO COUNTER CONTINUING SOVIET EFFORT
TO MANIPULATE PROXY REGIMES IN ORDER TO EXPAND SOVIET
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PAGE 02 LOME 01024 190941Z

ZONE OF INFLUENCE IN AFRICA.

2. THE MOBUTU/REGIME AND U.S. POLICY:

KODJO SAID HE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING EVOLUTION OF U.S. POLICY
TOWARD ZAIRE WITH GREAT INTEREST. HE SAID IT WAS CLEAR
THAT THE U.S. WAS FACED WITH PERPLEXING DILEMMAS STEMMING

FROM THE NATURE OF THE MOBUTU REGIME. ON THE ONE HAND, HE PERCEIVED THAT THE U.S. WAS AS CONSCIOUS AS TOGO OF THE DANGER OF THE SPREAD OF SOVIET INFLUENCE AND THAT ACTION HAD TO BE TAKEN AGAINST THE SECURITY THREAT POSED TO ZAIRE IN SHABA PROVINCE. HE SAID IT WAS CLEAR ALSO THAT THE NATURE OF THE "REPRESSIVE AND CORRUPT" MOBUTU REGIME WAS SUCH THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE ALSO SERVED THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING A POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION APPARENTLY FOUND OFFENSIVE. (PARENTHETICALLY, HE SAID THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS DILEMMA FOR U.S. POLICYMAKERS WERE NOT LOST ON AFRICAN OBSERVERS IN OTHER AUTHORITARIAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS.) I SAID I DID NOT NEED TO EXPAND ON THESE OBSERVATIONS BECAUSE A GOOD DEAL OF THE U.S. DEBATE ON ZAIRE WAS TAKING PLACE IN PUBLIC. KODJO AGREED AND SAID IT WAS FASCINATING TO OBSERVE THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN THE VARIOUS AMERICAN POLICY MAKERS. HE SAID HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS ATTEMPTING, WITH SOME SUCCESS, TO FIND A PATH BETWEEN SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS. HE NOTED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE U.S. HAD NOT MADE ANY NEGATIVE COMMENT ON FRENCH, BELGIAN AND MOROCCAN EFFORTS TO REINFORCE ZAIRE AND SAID THAT THIS IMPLICITLY SUGGESTED U.S. APPROVAL OF SUCH ACTIONS WHICH HAD ALLOWED THE U.S. TO DATE TO LIMIT ITS ASSISTANCE TO NON-LETHAL AID. I MADE NO COMMENT.

3. COMMENT: KODJO WAS CLEARLY PLEASED BY THE REPORT OF ADDITIONAL U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. HIS RESPONSE, HOWEVER, IS LIKELY TO BE RATHER MORE REFLECTIVE AND INTELLECTUAL THAN THAT OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA, WHO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR

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PAGE 03 LOME 01024 190941Z

HAS INFORMED ME, HAS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE "DISAPPOINTMENT" AT THE LACK OF A MORE VIGOROUS AND STRAIGHTFORWARD U.S. RESPONSE TO THE ZAIRE PROBLEM

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CG, AO, US, TO, FR, (KODJO, EDEM)
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